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16. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the selected location is a corner of said content.

17. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
5 derives, from said data, information for determining a weight of said content.

18. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
10 derives, from said data, information concerning pagination of the content.

19. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
15 derives, from said data, information concerning an address.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said information includes zip code information.

21. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
20 derives, from said data, information for identifying at least one party to which said costs are attributed.

22. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
25 computes said costs based on one or more selected shipping rates.

23. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a memory for storing a database.

30 24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said database includes statistical information based on said costs.

25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said database includes information identifying said mail piece for  
35 tracking thereof.

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26. Apparatus for processing at least one mail piece to be delivered comprising:

an interface for obtaining from the mail piece selected information appearing thereon; and

5 a processor responsive to at least the selected information for determining whether postage is dispensed to pay for delivery of the mail piece.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said interface  
10 includes a connector for connecting a scanner to said apparatus.

28. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the selected  
15 information is represented by a bar-code on said mail piece.

29. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the selected  
information includes data identifying an originator of  
said mail piece.

20 30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the processor disallows a dispensation of the postage when said originator is determined to be unauthorized to expend the postage.

25 31. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the originator is an individual.

30 32. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the originator is an organization.

33. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the selected information includes information representative of an authorization code.

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5 35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the processor  
determines whether the postage is dispensed in response  
also to said data.

20 37. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional  
data includes information identifying said second party.

39. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional data includes an indicator indicative of a method by which the transaction amount is paid to the second party.

41. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional  
35 data includes a personal identification number (PIN).

43. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional  
5 data includes instructional information, the first party  
causing the transaction amount to be paid to the second  
party in response to the instructional information.

45. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said instructional  
15 information includes information on a date by which the  
transaction amount is paid to the second party.

46. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said postage indicium includes a digital signature for authenticating at least part of said postage indicium.

47. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional data is encoded in a bar-code.

25 48. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said postage  
indicium includes a human readable portion.

49. The apparatus of claim 48 wherein said human  
readable portion includes information identifying said  
30 second party.

50. The apparatus of claim 48 wherein said human readable portion includes the transaction amount.

35 51. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said postage indicium includes a machine readable portion.

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52. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said first party is a postal authority.

53. The apparatus of claim 52 wherein said second party is a courier other than the postal authority.

54. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the amount of said payment for service is zero.

55. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said postage indicium is generated onto a tangible medium.

56. The apparatus of claim 55 wherein said tangible medium is paper.

57. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said postage indicium is generated onto a mail piece.

58. Postage processing apparatus comprising:

a processor for processing at least one postage indicium including a proof of payment for service by a first party, and transactional data comprising at least information representative of a transaction amount; and an output responsive to at least said transactional data for causing said transaction amount to be paid to a second party when the postage indicium is processed.

59. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said postage indicium appears on a mail piece.

60. The apparatus of claim 59 wherein said processor causes said mail piece to be delivered according to an address appearing on said mail piece.

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61. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said processor includes a scanner for scanning at least part of said postage indicium.

5 62. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said transactional data includes information identifying said second party.

63. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said transactional data includes information concerning an originator of  
10 said postage indicium.

64. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said transactional data includes an indicator indicative of a method by which the transaction amount is paid to the second party.  
15

65. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said method includes an electronic funds transfer.

66. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said transactional  
20 data includes a PIN.

67. The apparatus of claim 66 wherein said PIN is encrypted.

25 68. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said transactional data includes instructional information, the first party causing the transaction amount to be paid to the second party in response to said instructional information.

30 69. The apparatus of claim 68 wherein said instructional information includes a request for a confirmation by the first party to the second party that the transaction amount has been paid.

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70. The apparatus of claim 68 wherein said instructional information includes information on a date by which the transaction amount is paid to the second party.

5 71. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said postage indicium includes a digital signature for authenticating at least part of said postage indicium.

72. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said transactional  
10 data is encoded in a bar-code.

73. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said postage indicium includes a human readable portion.

15 74. The apparatus of claim 73 wherein said human readable portion includes information identifying said second party.

75. The apparatus of claim 73 wherein said human  
20 readable portion includes the transaction amount.

76. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said postage indicium includes a machine readable portion.

25 77. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said first party is a postal authority.

78. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein said second party is a courier other than the postal authority.

30 79. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the amount of said payment for service is zero.

80. The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said postage  
35 indicium is fixed on a tangible medium.

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88. The system of claim 82 further comprising an address  
cleanser for checking address information on mail pieces  
35 processed by the system.

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89. The system of claim 82 further comprising a second interface for obtaining shipping rate information.

90. The system of claim 82 further comprising a second  
5 interface for communicating with a remote computer.

91. The system of claim 82 further comprising a second  
10 interface for establishing a connection to a communication network.

92. The system of claim 91 wherein said communication network includes at least part of the Internet.

93. The system of claim 82 further comprising a  
15 communicator for communicating information with a selected recipient.

94. The system of claim 93 wherein said communicator communicates with a certification authority other than  
20 the selected recipient to verify receipt by the selected recipient of the information.

95. The system of claim 93 wherein said communicator communicates with a certification authority other than  
25 the selected recipient to verify access by the selected recipient to the information.

96. The system of claim 82 wherein said second data includes a digital signature.  
30

97. The system of claim 82 further comprising a transmitter for transmitting facsimile information.

98. The system of claim 97 wherein said facsimile  
35 information is encrypted.

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99. The system of claim 97 wherein said facsimile information includes a digital signature for authenticating the facsimile transmission.

5 100. The system of claim 82 further comprising a receiver for receiving facsimile information.

10 101. The system of claim 100 wherein said facsimile information is encrypted, said receiver includes a decoder for decrypting the encrypted facsimile information.

15 102. The system of claim 100 wherein said facsimile information includes a digital signature, said receiver includes a mechanism for verifying said digital signature.

20 103. The system of claim 82 wherein said memory further includes an encryption algorithm, said second data being encrypted in accordance with said encryption algorithm.

104. The system of claim 103 wherein said encryption algorithm is an RSA algorithm.

25 105. The system of claim 103 wherein said encryption algorithm is a DSA.

106. The system of claim 82 wherein said memory includes information for determining past postage dispensation.

30 / 107. A method for use in an IC card apparatus for dispensing postage comprising the steps of:  
storing first data representative of a value of postage funds;

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changing the value of the stored postage funds, the changed value being a function of a value of said postage, and

providing second data for creation of a postage  
5 indicium indicative of the value of said postage.

108. The method of claim 107 wherein said second data includes a digital signature,

10 109. The method of claim 107 wherein said second data is encrypted in accordance with an encryption algorithm.

110. The method of claim 109 wherein said encryption algorithm is an RSA algorithm.

15

111. The method of claim 109 wherein said encryption algorithm is a DSA.

112. The method of claim 107 wherein the value of the  
20 stored postage funds is changed in response to a purchase.

113. A method for generating a content of a mail piece, said mail piece including a cover for enclosing said  
25 content, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving data representative of at least part of said content;

computing costs for delivering said mail piece in response to said data; and

30 applying at least an indicator indicative of said costs onto said content at a selected location thereof.

114. The method of claim 113 wherein said costs include postage for delivering said mail piece.

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115. The method of claim 113 wherein said indicator includes a postage indicium.

5 116. The method of claim 113 wherein said indicator is applied onto said content close to an address.

117. The method of claim 113 wherein said cover is an envelope.

10 118. The method of claim 117 wherein said envelope has at least one window coinciding with said indicator such that at least part of said indicator exposes through the at least one window.

15 119. The method of claim 113 wherein at least part of said data is indicative of the selected location.

120. The method of claim 113 wherein the selected location is a corner of said content.

20 121. The method of claim 113 wherein information for determining a weight of said content is derived from said data.

25 122. The method of claim 113 wherein information concerning pagination of the content is derived from said data.

30 123. The method of claim 113 wherein information concerning an address is derived from said data.

124. The method of claim 123 wherein said information includes zip code information.

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125. The method of claim 113 wherein information for identifying at least one party to which said costs are attributed is derived from said data.

5 126. The method of claim 113 wherein said costs are computed based on one or more selected shipping rates.

127. The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of storing a database.

10

128. The method of claim 127 wherein said database includes statistical information based on said costs.

129. The method of claim 127 wherein said database  
15 includes information identifying said mail piece for tracking thereof.

130. A method for processing at least one mail piece to be delivered comprising the steps of:

20 obtaining from the mail piece selected information appearing thereon; and

determining, in response to at least the selected information, whether postage is dispensed to pay for delivery of the mail piece.

25

131. The method of claim 130 wherein the selected information is represented by a bar-code on said mail piece.

30 132. The method of claim 130 wherein the selected information includes data identifying an originator of said mail piece.

133. The method of claim 132 wherein the a dispensation  
35 of the postage is disallowed when said originator is determined to be unauthorized to expend the postage.

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134. The method of claim 132 wherein the originator is an individual.

5 135. The method of claim 132 wherein the originator is an organization.

10 136. The method of claim 130 wherein the selected information includes information representative of an authorization code.

137. The method of claim 130 further comprising the step of receiving data representative of costs of said delivery.

15 138. The method of claim 137 wherein whether the postage is dispensed is determined in response also to said data.

✓ 139. A method for dispensing postage comprising the steps of:

20       creating a postage indicium, said postage indicium including a proof of payment for service by a first party, and transactional data comprising at least information representative of a transaction amount, said first party causing said transaction amount to be paid to  
25 a second party in response to at least said transactional data when said first party processes said postage indicium; and

          generating said postage indicium.

30 140. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data includes information identifying said second party.

141. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data includes information concerning an originator of  
35 said postage indicium.

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5 143. The method of claim 142 wherein said methodology includes an electronic funds transfer.

10

146. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional  
15 data includes instructional information, the first party  
causing the transaction amount to be paid to the second  
party in response to the instructional information.

148. The method of claim 146 wherein said instructional  
25 information includes information on a date by which the  
transaction amount is paid to the second party.

150. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data is encoded in a bar-code.

35 151. The method of claim 139 wherein said postage  
indiciu includes a human readable portion.



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152. The method of claim 151 wherein said human readable portion includes information identifying said second party.

5 153. The method of claim 151 wherein said human readable portion includes the transaction amount.

154. The method of claim 151 wherein said postage indicium includes a machine readable portion.

10

155. The method of claim 139 wherein said first party is a postal authority.

156. The method of claim 155 wherein said second party is  
15 a courier other than the postal authority.

157. The method of claim 139 wherein the amount of said payment for service is zero.

20 158. The method of claim 139 wherein said postage indicium is generated onto a tangible medium.

159. The method of claim 158 wherein said tangible medium includes a label.

25

160. The method of claim 139 wherein said postage indicium is generated onto a mail piece.

✓  
30 161. A postage processing method comprising the steps of:  
processing at least one postage indicium including a proof of payment for service by a first party, and transactional data comprising at least information representative of a transaction amount; and

causing, in response to at least said transactional  
35 data, said transaction amount to be paid to a second party when the postage indicium is processed.

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163. The method of claim 162 wherein said mail piece is  
5 delivered according to an address appearing on said mail  
piece.

10

15 166. The method of claim 161 wherein said transactional :  
data includes an indicator indicative of a methodology by  
which the transaction amount is paid to the second party.

20

25 169. The method of claim 168 wherein said PIN is encrypted.

30

35

172. The method of claim 170 wherein said instructional information includes information on a date by which the transaction amount is paid to the second party.

5 173. The method of claim 161 wherein said postage indicium includes a digital signature for authenticating at least part of said postage indicium.

10 174. The method of claim 161 wherein said transactional data is encoded in a bar-code.

175. The method of claim 161 wherein said postage indicium includes a human readable portion.

15 176. The method of claim 175 wherein said human readable portion includes information identifying said second party.

20 177. The method of claim 175 wherein said human readable portion includes the transaction amount.

178. The method of claim 161 wherein said postage indicium includes a machine readable portion.

25 179. The method of claim 161 wherein said first party is a postal authority.

180. The method of claim 179 wherein said second party is a courier other than the postal authority.

30

181. The method of claim 161 wherein the amount of said payment for service is zero.

35 182. The method of claim 161 wherein said postage indicium is fixed on a tangible medium.

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184. A method for use in a postage dispensing system,  
said system including an IC card apparatus, comprising:  
storing first data representative of a value of  
postage funds in the IC card apparatus;  
changing by the IC card apparatus the value of the  
stored postage funds as a function of a value of said  
postage;  
providing by the IC card apparatus second data for  
creation of a postage indicium indicative of the value of  
said postage; and  
generating a postage indicium indicative of the  
value of said postage in response to said second data.

20 186. The method of claim 184 further comprising the step  
of checking address information on mail pieces processed  
by the system.

188. The method of claim 184 further comprising the step of communicating information with a selected recipient.

35

190. The method of claim 188 wherein the communicating  
step including the step of communicating with a  
certification authority other than the selected recipient  
to verify access by the selected recipient to the  
5 information.

191. The method of claim 184 wherein said second data  
includes a digital signature.

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## AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 19 September 1997 (19.09.97);  
original claims 1, 3, 7-9, 12, 21, 22, 24, 26, 34, 35, 82, 88, 103,  
107, 109, 113, 114, 125, 126, 128, 130, 137, 138, 145, 184 and 186 amended;  
new claims 192-198 added;  
remaining claims unchanged (14 pages)]

1. Integrated circuit (IC) module apparatus for dispensing postage for a mail piece comprising:
  - 5 a memory for storing first data representative of a value of postage funds;  
an interface for receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds  
10 being a function of the value of the postage; and  
a processor for encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data, the first data and the second data being provided for creation of a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage.
- 15 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second data includes a digital signature.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said memory further  
20 includes an encryption algorithm, said selected information being encrypted in accordance with said encryption algorithm.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said encryption  
25 algorithm is an RSA algorithm.
5. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said encryption algorithm is a digital signature algorithm (DSA).
- 30 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said memory includes information for determining past postage dispensation.
7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the value of the  
35 postage funds is changed in response to a purchase.

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8. Apparatus for generating a content of a mail piece, said mail piece including a cover for enclosing said content, said apparatus comprising:
- an input for receiving data representative of at least said content, said data excluding a value of cost of delivery of said mail piece;
  - a processor for computing the cost of delivery of said mail piece based on said data; and
  - an output for generating said content based on said data, and applying at least an indicator indicative of the computed cost onto said content at a selected location thereof.
9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said cost includes postage for delivering said mail piece.
10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said indicator includes a postage indicium.
11. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said indicator is applied onto said content close to an address.
12. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein information concerning said cost is read by a scanner's scanning said indicator.
13. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said cover is an envelope.
14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said envelope has at least one window coinciding with said indicator such that at least part of said indicator exposes through the at least one window.
15. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein at least part of said data is indicative of the selected location.

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16. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the selected location is a corner of said content.

17. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
5 derives, from said data, information for determining a weight of said content.

18. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
10 derives, from said data, information concerning pagination of the content.

19. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
15 derives, from said data, information concerning an address.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said information includes zip code information.

21. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
20 derives, from said data, information for identifying at least one party to which said cost is attributed.

22. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor  
25 computes said cost based on one or more selected shipping rates.

23. The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a memory for storing a database.

30 24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said database includes statistical information based on said cost.

25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said database  
35 includes information identifying said mail piece for tracking thereof.

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- ✓ 26. Apparatus for processing a mail piece for which postage needs to be dispensed before delivery of the mail piece comprising:
- an interface for obtaining from the mail piece
  - 5 selected information appearing on the mailing piece; and
  - a processor responsive to at least the selected information for determining whether to dispense the postage.
- 10 27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said interface includes a connector for connecting a scanner to said apparatus.
- 15 28. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the selected information is represented by a bar-code on said mail piece.
- 20 29. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the selected information includes data identifying an originator of said mail piece. *Cancel*
- 25 30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the processor disallows a dispensation of the postage when said originator is determined to be unauthorized to expend the postage. *Cancel*
- 30 31. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the originator is an individual.
32. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the originator is an organization.
- 35 33. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the selected information includes information representative of an authorization code.

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34. The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a receiver for receiving data representative of cost of said delivery.

5 35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the processor determines whether to dispense the postage also in response to said data.

36. Postage dispensing apparatus comprising:  
10 a processor for creating a postage indicium, said postage indicium including a proof of payment for service by a first party, and transactional data comprising at least information representative of a transaction amount, said first party causing said transaction amount to be  
15 paid to a second party in response to at least said transactional data when said first party processes said postage indicium; and  
an output for generating said postage indicium.

20 37. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional data includes information identifying said second party.

38. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional data includes information concerning an originator of  
25 said postage indicium.

39. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional data includes an indicator indicative of a method by which the transaction amount is paid to the second party.

30

40. The apparatus of claim 39 wherein said method includes an electronic funds transfer.

41. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said transactional  
35 data includes a personal identification number (PIN).

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81. The apparatus of claim 80 wherein said tangible medium includes a label.

82. A system for dispensing postage for a mail piece  
5 comprising:

an IC module comprising a memory for storing first data representative of a value of postage funds; an interface for receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the  
10 postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage; and a processor for encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data; and

an output for generating a postage indicium  
15 indicative of payment of the postage based on at least the first data and the second data.

83. The system of claim 82 further comprising a  
20 computer.

84. The system of claim 83 wherein said computer is a personal computer (PC).

85. The system of claim 82 further comprising a control  
25 element for controlling access to said system.

86. The system of claim 82 further comprising a management information subsystem for processing documents.  
30

87. The system of claim 86 wherein said documents include invoices.

88. The system of claim 82 further comprising an address  
35 cleanser for checking address information on the mail piece.

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99. The system of claim 97 wherein said facsimile information includes a digital signature for authenticating the facsimile transmission.

5 100. The system of claim 82 further comprising a receiver for receiving facsimile information.

101. The system of claim 100 wherein said facsimile information is encrypted, said receiver includes a  
10 decoder for decrypting the encrypted facsimile information.

102. The system of claim 100 wherein said facsimile information includes a digital signature, said receiver  
15 includes a mechanism for verifying said digital signature.

103. The system of claim 82 wherein said memory further includes an encryption algorithm, said selected  
20 information being encrypted in accordance with said encryption algorithm.

104. The system of claim 103 wherein said encryption algorithm is an RSA algorithm.  
25

105. The system of claim 103 wherein said encryption algorithm is a DSA.

106. The system of claim 82 wherein said memory includes  
30 information for determining past postage dispensation.

✓ 107. A method for use in an IC module for dispensing postage for a mail piece comprising the steps of:  
storing first data representative of a value of  
35 postage funds;

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receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage;

5        encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data, and

         providing the first data and the second data for creation of a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage.

10

108. The method of claim 107 wherein said second data includes a digital signature.

109. The method of claim 107 wherein said selected  
15 information is encrypted in accordance with an encryption algorithm.

110. The method of claim 109 wherein said encryption algorithm is an RSA algorithm.

20

111. The method of claim 109 wherein said encryption algorithm is a DSA.

112. The method of claim 107 wherein the value of the  
25 stored postage funds is changed in response to a purchase.

113. A method for generating a content of a mail piece, said mail piece including a cover for enclosing said  
30 content, said method comprising the steps of:

         receiving data representative of at least said content, said data excluding a value of cost of delivery of said mail piece;

         computing the cost of delivery of said mail piece  
35 based on said data;

         generating said content based on said data; and

applying at least an indicator indicative of the computed cost onto said content at a selected location thereof.

- 5 114. The method of claim 113 wherein said cost includes postage for delivering said mail piece.

125. The method of claim 113 wherein information for identifying at least one party to which said cost is attributed is derived from said data.

5 126. The method of claim 113 wherein said cost is  
computed based on one or more selected shipping rates.

127. The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of storing a database.

128. The method of claim 127 wherein said database includes statistical information based on said cost.

129. The method of claim 127 wherein said database  
15 includes information identifying said mail piece for  
tracking thereof.

130. A method for processing a mail piece for which postage needs to be dispensed before delivery of the mail piece comprising the steps of:

obtaining from the mail piece selected information appearing on the mailing piece; and

determining whether to dispense the postage in response to at least the selected information.

25 131. The method of claim 130 wherein the selected  
information is represented by a bar-code on said mail  
piece.

30 132. The method of claim 130 wherein the selected information includes data identifying an originator of said mail piece.

133. The method of claim 132 wherein the a dispensation  
35 of the postage is disallowed when said originator is  
determined to be unauthorized to expend the postage.

Cancel.

Cancelled

Parameter	1990-1991		1991-1992		1992-1993		1993-1994		1994-1995		1995-1996		1996-1997		1997-1998		1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		2025-2026		2026-2027		2027-2028		2028-2029		2029-2030		2030-2031		2031-2032		2032-2033		2033-2034		2034-2035		2035-2036		2036-2037		2037-2038		2038-2039		2039-2040		2040-2041		2041-2042		2042-2043		2043-2044		2044-2045		2045-2046		2046-2047		2047-2048		2048-2049		2049-2050		2050-2051		2051-2052		2052-2053		2053-2054		2054-2055		2055-2056		2056-2057		2057-2058		2058-2059		2059-2060		2060-2061		2061-2062		2062-2063		2063-2064		2064-2065		2065-2066		2066-2067		2067-2068		2068-2069		2069-2070		2070-2071		2071-2072		2072-2073		2073-2074		2074-2075		2075-2076		2076-2077		2077-2078		2078-2079		2079-2080		2080-2081		2081-2082		2082-2083		2083-2084		2084-2085		2085-2086		2086-2087		2087-2088		2088-2089		2089-2090		2090-2091		2091-2092		2092-2093		2093-2094		2094-2095		2095-2096		2096-2097		2097-2098		2098-2099		2099-2100		2100-2101		2101-2102		2102-2103		2103-2104		2104-2105		2105-2106		2106-2107		2107-2108		2108-2109		2109-2110		2110-2111		2111-2112		2112-2113		2113-2114		2114-2115		2115-2116		2116-2117		2117-2118		2118-2119		2119-2120		2120-2121		2121-2122		2122-2123		2123-2124		2124-2125		2125-2126		2126-2127		2127-2128		2128-2129		2129-2130		2130-2131		2131-2132		2132-2133		2133-2134		2134-2135		2135-2136		2136-2137		2137-2138		2138-2139		2139-2140		2140-2141		2141-2142		2142-2143		2143-2144		2144-2145		2145-2146		2146-2147		2147-2148		2148-2149		2149-2150		2150-2151		2151-2152		2152-2153		2153-2154		2154-2155		2155-2156		2156-2157		2157-2158		2158-2159		2159-2160		2160-2161		2161-2162		2162-2163		2163-2164		2164-2165		2165-2166		2166-2167		2167-2168		2168-2169		2169-2170		2170-2171		2171-2172		2172-2173		2173-2174		2174-2175		2175-2176		2176-2177		2177-2178		2178-2179		2179-2180		2180-2181		2181-2182		2182-2183		2183-2184		2184-2185		2185-2186		2186-2187		2187-2188		2188-2189		2189-2190		2190-2191		2191-2192		2192-2193		2193-2194		2194-2195		2195-2196		2196-2197		2197-2198		2198-2199		2199-2200		2200-2201		2201-2202		2202-2203		2203-2204		2204-2205		2205-2206		2206-2207		2207-2208		2208-2209		2209-2210		2210-2211		2211-2212		2212-2213		2213-2214		2214-2215		2215-2216		2	
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generating said postage indicium.

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141. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data includes information concerning an originator of said postage indicium.



142. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data includes an indicator indicative of a methodology by which the transaction amount is paid to the second party.

5 143. The method of claim 142 wherein said methodology includes an electronic funds transfer.

144. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data includes a PIN.

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145. The method of claim 144 wherein said PIN is encrypted.

146. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data includes instructional information, the first party causing the transaction amount to be paid to the second party in response to the instructional information.

147. The method of claim 146 wherein said instructional information includes a request for a confirmation by the first party to the second party that the transaction amount has been paid.

148. The method of claim 146 wherein said instructional information includes information on a date by which the transaction amount is paid to the second party.

149. The method of claim 139 wherein said postage indicium includes a digital signature for authenticating at least part of said postage indicium.

150. The method of claim 139 wherein said transactional data is encoded in a bar-code.

151. The method of claim 139 wherein said postage indicium includes a human readable portion.

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183. The method of claim 182 wherein said tangible medium includes a label.

184. A method for use in a system for dispensing postage  
5 for a mail piece, said system including an IC module,  
comprising the steps of:

storing first data representative of a value of  
postage funds in the IC module;

receiving by the IC module selected information  
10 concerning the mail piece and information concerning a  
value of the postage, the value of the postage funds  
being a function of the value of the postage;

encrypting by the IC module at least the selected  
information to generate second data; and

15 generating a postage indicium indicative of payment  
of the postage based on at least the first data and the  
second data.

185. The method of claim 184 further comprising the step  
20 of controlling access to said system.

186. The method of claim 184 further comprising the step  
of checking address information on the mail piece.

25 187. The method of claim 184 further comprising the step  
of obtaining shipping rate information.

188. The method of claim 184 further comprising the step  
of communicating information with a selected recipient.

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189. The method of claim 188 wherein the communicating  
step includes the step of communicating with a  
certification authority other than the selected recipient  
to verify receipt by the selected recipient of the  
35 information.

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190. The method of claim 188 wherein the communicating step including the step of communicating with a certification authority other than the selected recipient to verify access by the selected recipient to the  
5 information.

191. The method of claim 184 wherein said second data includes a digital signature.

10 192. A method for sending a mail piece comprising the steps of:  
indicating on the mail piece information concerning a content in the mail piece; and  
providing on the mail piece an indicator for  
15 affirming that the content is included in the mail piece, said indicator causing a processor of the mail piece to inform a third party of the information while the mail piece is being sent.

20 193. The method of claim 192 wherein the content includes a payment.

194. The method of claim 193 wherein the information includes an amount of the payment.

25 195. The method of claim 192 wherein the third party is an addressee of the mail piece.

196. The method of claim 192 wherein the indicator  
30 includes a digital signature.

197. The method of claim 192 wherein the information is encrypted.

35 198. The method of claim 192 wherein the information is incorporated in a postage indicium.